

**2<sup>nd</sup> NUS-STUDENT MEDICAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE (SMEC) 2006**  
**“PROFESSIONALISM IN MEDICINE & MEDICAL SCHOOL”**  
**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006**  
**Auditorium, Clinical Research Centre, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS**

The recently concluded 2nd NUS-Student Medical Education Conference (SMEC) 2006 was well received. This conference, which was co-organised by the Medical Education Unit (MEU), Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (SoM) and the NUS Students' Medical Society was held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2006 at the Clinical Research Centre, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, NUS.



The theme of SMEC 2006 was **"Professionalism in Medicine and Medical School"**. The aim

was to nurture professionalism in medical school by starting with students having a good understanding of the code of conduct and why they need to abide by such codes. SMEC 2006 provided opportunities for our students to actively review and reflect on the existing code with the aim to formulate appropriate core values for medical students. The

students were also involved in preparing guidelines on how best to implement their recommendations and to take ownership of the document that they formulated. They worked in small groups with trained student facilitators.

Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Provost, NUS was the guest-of-honour. In his opening address, Prof Tan highlighted that ***“medicine, and doctors, have a “privileged” position in society. It is therefore imperative that the medical professionals actively maintain the trust that society has for medicine and medical professionals.”*** The speakers at SMEC 2006 were Prof Raj Nambiar, Prof Glenn Regehr, Prof Alastair Campbell, Prof Matthew Gwee, 3 NUS medical student leaders, as well as two medical students from Bristol University.

90% of the medical students felt that this conference was useful for them as a future practicing physician. The case studies session conducted by Prof Alastair Campbell received the highest rating. 91% of the medical students rated it as ‘important to extremely important’. They commented that ***“the case studies were really thought provoking and interesting and required audience participation, thereby generating reflection and thought instead of mere listening.”*** The red and green cards introduced by Prof Campbell, ***“allowed the students to share their personal experiences of professional and unprofessional behaviour as well as express their opinions freely.”***



The highlight of the conference was the reaffirmation of commitment in professionalism in medicine and medical school by the medical students. We would like to commend the 100 M1 medical students who participated enthusiastically and who stayed till the end of the conference to reaffirm their commitment. The names of these students are in List 1.



During the breaks and lunches, ***“performances by the amazing, ‘rock-tastic’ M1 band”*** provided great music and ambience for social interaction and networking.



In conclusion, SMEC 2006 was a success. The students found the ***“group discussions very useful as talking about these things make them more aware of the need to be professional.”*** They highlighted that the different viewpoints by the invited speakers, the intellectually thought provoking case studies and the highly interactive student participation were very impressive and recommended that SMEC be repeated next year.